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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/809,340	03/26/2004	Takesi Yamakawa	0757-0286PUS1	8223
2292	7590	01/19/2007	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH			NGUYEN, CUONG H	
PO BOX 747			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			3661	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		01/19/2007	ELECTRONIC	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 01/19/2007.

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mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/809,340	YAMAKAWA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	CUONG H. NGUYEN	3661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 October 2006.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,5-7 and 9-11 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 2-4 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/07/2004.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is the answer to a response received on 10/19/2006.
2. Claims 1-7, and 9-11 are pending in this application.

Drawings

3. This application has been filed with formal drawings which are acceptable for examining purposes.

Priority

4. Acknowledgment is made of applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed is Japanese Application# 2003-097320 (date 3/31/2003).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:
The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Although, the preamble of claims 1, 5-7, 9, 10-11 are amended, there are gaps according to what applicant claims (preamble does not contain a limitation of a claim):

A. As to claims 1, and 5-7: It is directed to a system for controlling a steering device of a ship by the heading of the ship from a target value and control parameters; however, in the body of this claim, a gap exists because the examiner fails to see that system comprises apparatus/components for performing that controlling a steering device of a ship besides basing upon time: period/frequency. The examiner respectfully submits that one cannot control a steering device of a ship based upon period(s) and frequencies, as claimed (the subject matter for this claim is a system for controlling a steering device).

B. As to independent claims 9, and 11: They are directed to a method for regulating a heading of a ship based on a deviation of a controlled quantity from a target value, and control parameters; however, in the body of this claim, a gap exists because the examiner fails to see how to performing that method besides basing upon detected time: period/frequency (i.e., how to perform the calculating step with variable periods/frequencies). The examiner respectfully submits that one cannot control a steering device of a ship based upon period(s) and frequencies, as claimed.

C. As to independent claim 10: It is directed to a structure for controlling a steering device of a ship by regulating the heading of the ship based on a deviation of a controlled quantity from a target value and control parameters; however, in the body of this claim, a gap exists because the examiner fails to see that structure comprises physical apparatus/components for performing that controlling a steering device of a ship besides basing upon detected time: period/frequency. Because the claim does not define a structural relationship “of a behavior feature value detector” to “a steering device of a ship”; therefore, the examiner respectfully submits that one can not control a steering device of a ship based upon just using period(s) and frequencies, as claimed.

Conclusion

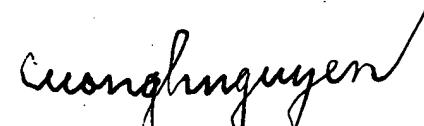
6. Claims 1, 5-7, and 9-11 are not patentable. Claims 2-4 are objected.
7. Note: Even on a ship, there are many different devices/components/apparatus that generate periods/frequencies not necessarily to control a heading of a ship.
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CUONG H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-6759 (email address: cuong.nguyen@uspto.gov). The examiner can normally be

reached on 9:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, THOMAS G. BLACK can be reached on 571-272-6956. The Rightfax number for the organization where this application is assigned is 571-273-6759.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Please provide support, with page and line numbers, for any amended or new claim in an effort to help advance prosecution; otherwise any new claim language that is introduced in an amended or new claim may be considered as new matter, especially if the Application is a Jumbo Application.


CUONG H. NGUYEN
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3661